

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inkjet ink comprising a dye, water, a water-soluble organic solvent and a betaine compound, wherein the total weight of inorganic ions in the ink is 2 wt% or less based on the ink.

2. A method for producing an inkjet ink comprising desalting and purifying a betaine compound and then using the betaine compound for the preparation of the ink.

3. A method for producing an inkjet ink comprising desalting and purifying an ink stock solution containing a betaine compound and then using the ink stock solution for the preparation of the ink.

4. An inkjet ink produced by the method as claimed in Claim 2.

5. An inkjet ink produced by the method as claimed in Claim 3.

6. The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 1, which is produced by the method as claimed in Claim 2.

7. The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 1, which is produced by the method as claimed in Claim 3.

8. The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the betaine compound is a compound having both a cationic site and an anionic site in the molecule thereof.

9. The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the cationic site is at least one member selected from an

aminic nitrogen atom, a nitrogen atom of a heteroaromatic ring, a boron atom having 4 bonds to carbon and a phosphoric atom and the anionic site is at least one member selected from a hydroxyl group, a thio group, a sulfonamido group, a sulfo group, a carboxyl group, an imido group, a phosphoric acid group and a phosphonic acid group.

10. The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dye is a dye having an oxidation potential more positive than 1.0 V (vs SCE).

11. The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dye is a dye having at least two heterocyclic groups.

12. The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 11, wherein at least one of the heterocyclic groups is a 5-membered or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing at least one hetero atom selected from a nitrogen atom, an oxygen atom and a sulfur atom.

13. The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the heterocyclic group contains at least one heterocyclic ring selected from pyridine, thiophene, thiazole, benzothiazole, benzoxazole and furan.

14. The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dye is a phthalocyanine dye having at least one group selected from -SO-, -SO₂-, -CO-, -CO₂-.

15. An inkjet ink set comprising the inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 1.

16. An inkjet recording method comprising recording an image by an inkjet printer using the ink as claimed in Claim 1.